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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,697	12/04/2003	Ted A. Barnes	PGI 02910 PTUS	8662
32233	7590	02/13/2006	EXAMINER	
STORM L.L.P. BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 7100 DALLAS, TX 75202			VANTERPOOL, LESTER L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,697	Applicant(s) BARNES, TED A.	
	Examiner Lester L. Vanterpool	Art Unit 3727	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>September 27, 2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, & 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637). Gates et al., discloses the body (40), the pair of parallel mounting holes (46) in the body (40); the radial relief location (44) between the parallel mounting holes (46); and the threaded accessory hole (42) (column 3, line 24 – 30). See Figure 1.

Regarding claim 3, as stated above in claim 1, Gates et al., discloses the body (40) is generally rectangular. See Figure 1.

Art Unit: 3727

Regarding claim 5, as stated above in claim 1, Gates et al., discloses the threaded accessory hole (42) is located in substantially perpendicular relationship to the mounting holes (46). See Figure 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637) in view of Howland et al., (U.S. Patent Number 5928232). Gates et al., discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Gates et al., does not disclose a countersink portion that is larger in diameter than the cylinder portion. Howland et al., teaches the countersink portion (110) that is larger in diameter than the cylinder portion (column 5, line 21 – 51). See Figure 2. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the countersink portion as taught by Howland et al., in order to place the mounting bolts into the mounting hole prior to tighten without the mounting bolts wavering.

Art Unit: 3727

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637) in view of Chen (U.S. Patent Number 6644614). Gates et al., discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However Gates et al., does not disclose a threaded accessory hole located between the mounting holes. Chen teaches the threaded accessory hole (411) located between the mounting holes (53). See Figure 2. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the threaded hole between the mounting holes as taught by Chen in order to enhance the anchoring security of the attachment.

6. Claims 6 – 10, 12, & 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637) in view of Hammons (U.S. Patent Number 6234510). Gates et al., discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Gates et al., discloses the threaded accessory hole (42). However, Gates et al., does not disclose a ball stud attached to the threaded accessory hole. Hammons teaches the ball stud (E) attached to the threaded accessory hole (D) (column 3, line 47 – 49). See Figures 2 and 5. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make a ball stud as taught by Hammons in order increase the user multi-functional capabilities of the vehicle accessory mount.

Regarding claim 7, Gates et al., discloses the body (40); the pair of parallel mounting holes (46) in the body (40). See Figure 1. However Gates et al., does not disclose a ball stud attached to the body. Hammons teaches the ball stud (E) attached

Art Unit: 3727

to the body (20 & C). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make a ball stud as taught by Hammons in order increase the user multi-functional capabilities of the vehicle accessory mount.

Regarding claim 8, Gates et al., discloses the body (40); the pair of parallel mounting holes (46) in the body (40); the threaded accessory hole (42). However Gates et al., does not disclose a pair of hollow standoffs. Hammons teaches the pair of hollow standoffs (30 & 138) (column 4, line 14 – 16). See Figures 2 & 6.

Regarding claim 9, as stated above in claim 8, Gates et al., discloses the body (40) as generally rectangular. See Figure 1.

Regarding claim 10, as stated above in claim 8, Gates et al., discloses the radial relief located between the parallel mounting holes (46).

Regarding claim 12, as stated above in claim 8, Gates et al., discloses the threaded accessory hole (42) is located in substantially perpendicular relationship to the mounting holes (46).

Regarding claim 15, Gates discloses the body (40) and the pair of parallel mounting holes (46) in the body (40) See Figure 1; furthermore, Hammons discloses the

Art Unit: 3727

pair of hollow standoffs (30) and the ball stud (E) attached to the body (20 & C). See Figures 2 & 6.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637) in view of Hammons (U.S. Patent Number 6234510) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent Number 6644614). Gates et al., and Hammons disclose the invention substantially as claimed. However, Gates et al., and Hammons do not disclose a threaded accessory hole located between the mounting holes. Chen teaches the threaded accessory hole (411) located between the mounting holes (53). See Figure 2. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the threaded hole between the mounting holes as taught by Chen in order to enhance the anchoring security of the attachment.

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637) in view of Hammons (U.S. Patent Number 6234510) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Howland et al., (U.S. Patent Number 5928232). Gates et al., and Hammons disclose the invention substantially as claimed. However, Gates et al., and Hammons do not disclose a countersink portion that is larger in diameter than the cylinder portion. Howland et al., teaches the countersink portion (110) that is larger in diameter than the cylinder portion (column 5, line 21 – 51). See Figure 2. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time

Art Unit: 3727

the invention was made to make the countersink portion as taught by Howland et al., in order to place the mounting bolts into the mounting hole prior to tighten without the mounting bolts wavering.

9. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6588637) in view of Hammons (U.S. Patent Number 6234510) as applied at claim 8 above, and further in view of White (U.S. Patent Number 6349042). Gates et al., and Hammons disclose the invention substantially as claimed. However, Gates et al., and Hammons do not disclose the inside diameter of each hollow standoff is substantially the same as the inside diameter of the cylinder portion of the mounting holes. White teaches the inside diameter of each standoff (12) is substantially the same as the inside diameter of the cylinder portion of the mounting holes. See Figure 1. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the standoff as taught by White in order ensure a flush fit to prevent movement.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hancock (U.S. Patent Number 4607772) discloses the radial relief (21) located between the parallel mounting holes. See Figures 2 & 3.

Art Unit: 3727


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lester L. Vanterpool whose telephone number is 571-272-8028. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:30 - 5:00) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on 571-272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LLV


JES F. PASCUA
PRIMARY EXAMINER